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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/691,789

10/23/2003

Jun-Kook Choi

LNK-0060

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EXAMINER

WANG, QUAN ZHEN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2613

DATE MAILED: 10/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/691,789

Applicant(s)

CHOI ET AL.

Examiner

Quan-Zhen Wang

Art Unit

2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 October 2003.
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/23/03.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Oberg et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2005/0084262 A1).

Regarding claim 1, Oberg discloses a ring type wavelength division multiplexing passive optical network (WDM PON) system (figs. 1-2 and 4-5) using the same wavelength for forward and backward channels, comprising: a central office (figs. 4-5, node A) including general media converters (MCs) each having a transmitter (fig. 4, TET in node A) adapted to convert an electrical signal into an optical signal to be outputted, and a receiver (fig. 4, RET in node A) adapted to receive an optical signal having the same wavelength as the output optical signal, and to convert the received optical signal into an electrical signal to be outputted, and a WDM multiplexer/demultiplexer (MUX/DEMUX) (fig. 5, the combination of MUX 13, DEMUX 14, and circulator or interleaver 7) for multiplexing optical signals of different wavelengths respectively outputted from the general MCs, and externally outputting the

Art Unit: 2613

resultant multiplexed optical signal, the WDM MUX/DEMUX also demultiplexing a multiplexed signal, externally inputted thereto, and outputting the resultant demultiplexed signals to respective general MCs; a coupler (fig. 4, coupler 29) for transmitting the multiplexed signal outputted from the WDM MUX/DEMUX through two different optical communication lines in a distributed manner, while transmitting an optical signal received from any one of the optical communication lines to the WDM MUX/DEMUX; the optical communication lines constructing a ring type distribution network through bi-directional add/drop devices each coupled to the optical communication lines (figs. 2 and 4); and remote nodes including redundancy MCs (fig. 2, Tx and Rx in node C) respectively coupled to the bi-directional add/drop devices, each of the redundancy MCs functioning to detect a line breakage, and to transmit an optical signal only in a clockwise or counter-clockwise direction in accordance with the result of the detection (paragraphs 0039-0073).

Regarding claim 2, Oberg further discloses that the system comprises at least one of the remote nodes further includes a 3-port add/drop device coupled to the optical communication lines constructing the ring type distribution network (fig. 9b, node C).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oberg et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2005/0084262 A1) (Oberg 1) in view of Oberg et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2003/0128984 A1) (Oberg 2).

Regarding claims 3 and 9, Oberg 1 further discloses each of the bidirectional add/drop devices comprises first and second WDM filters (figs. 2 and 4, add/drop filters 27) having opposite signal travel directions between the optical communication lines, the first WDM filter dropping a particular wavelength one of optical signals, received from a first one of the optical communication lines, to a master channel of the redundancy MC (fig. 2, the Tx and RX on left hand side in node C) coupled to the bi-directional add/drop device, while receiving an optical signal having the same wavelength as the dropped optical signal, and reflecting the received optical signal to the first optical communication line, and the second WDM filter dropping the particular wavelength one of optical signals, received from a second one of the optical communication lines, to a slave channel of the redundancy MC (fig. 2, the Tx and RX on right hand side in node C), while receiving an optical signal having the same wavelength as the dropped optical signal, and reflecting the received optical signal to the second optical communication line (paragraphs 0039-0073). Oberg 1 differs from the claimed invention in that Oberg 1 does not specifically disclose that the WDM filters are thin film WDM filters. However, it is well known in the art to use thin film filters for add/drop WDM filters. For example, Oberg 2 discloses using thin film filters for add/drop WDM filters (fig. 6a, paragraph 0040). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of

Art Unit: 2613

ordinary skill in the art at the time when the invention was made to use thin film filters for the add/drop WDM filters, as it is disclosed by Oberg 2, in the system of Oberg1 in order to add/drop optical singles.

5. Claims 4-6, 8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oberg et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2005/0084262 A1) (Oberg 1) in view of Oberg et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2003/0128984 A1) (Oberg 2) and further in view of Weissmann et al. (U.S. Patent US 5,333,130).

Regarding claims 4-6, Oberg 1 further discloses a master transmitting/receiving unit (fig. 2, the Tx and RX on left hand side in node C) and a slave master transmitting/receiving unit (fig. 2, the Tx and RX on right hand side in node C). The system inherently includes interfaces respectively connected to the master and slave transmitting/receiving units, each of the interfaces performing a data interfacing operation between an associated one of the master and slave transmitting/receiving units and the optical network unit. The modified system of Oberg 1 and Oberg 2 differs from the claimed invention in that Oberg 1 and Oberg 2 do not specifically disclose a control unit for detecting respective states of the master and slave transmitting/receiving units and a fiber breakage status, thereby activating a selected one of the master and slave transmitting/receiving units to perform transmitting and receiving operations. However, it is well known in the art to include a control unit for detecting respective states of the master and slave transmitting/receiving units and a fiber breakage status, thereby activating a selected one of the master and slave transmitting/receiving units to

Art Unit: 2613

perform transmitting and receiving operations. For example, Weissmann discloses a control unit (fig. 4, combination of elements 20, 30, 40, and 90, column 9, lines 10-29) for detecting respective states of the master and slave transmitting/receiving units and a fiber breakage status, thereby activating a selected one of the master and slave transmitting/receiving units to perform transmitting and receiving operations. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time when the invention was made to incorporate a control unit, as it is disclosed by Weissmann, in the modified system of Oberg 1 and Oberg 2 in order to ensure communications between nodes in the system.

Regarding claims 8 and 10, Weissmann further discloses that the control unit disables a transmitter included in the transmitting/receiving unit associated with the currently-activated channel, and detects whether or not a receiver included in the associated transmitting/receiving unit can be switched to a link-on state, thereby determining whether or not a fiber breakage status occurs (figs. 4-7).

6. Claims 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oberg et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2005/0084262 A1) (Oberg 1) in view of Oberg et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2003/0128984 A1) (Oberg 2) and Weissmann et al. (U.S. Patent US 5,333,130) and further in view of Kowalczyk et al. (U.S. Patent US 5,87,957).

Regarding claim 7, the modified system of Oberg 1, Oberg 2, and Weissmann differs from the claimed invention in that Oberg 1, Oberg 2, and Weissmann do not

Art Unit: 2613

specifically disclose a buffer arranged at a rear end of the interface connected to the slave transmitting/receiving unit, and adapted to perform a data buffering operation. However, it is well known in the art to include a buffer in a slave transmitting/receiving unit. For example, Kowalczyk discloses a buffer arranged in a slave transmitting/receiving unit, and adapted to perform a data buffering operation (fig. 3, column 3, line 36 to column 4, line 5). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time when the invention was made to incorporate a buffer in the slave transmitting/receiving unit and adapted to perform a data buffering operation, as it is disclosed by Kowalczyk, in the modified system of Oberg 1, Oberg 2, and Weissmann in order to prevent data loss in the communication system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quan-Zhen Wang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3114. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan can be reached on (571) 272-3022. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2613

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

qzw
10/17/2006


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